AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production apparatus comprising:

a light source for irradiating a surface of a graphite target with light;

a surface processing unit for flattening the surface of said graphite target after irradiation ~~irradiated~~ with light; and

a collecting unit for collecting carbon vapor evaporated from the graphite target by irradiation with light, as nanocarbon;

wherein the graphite target is a graphite rod or a graphite plate.

2. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production apparatus comprising:

a target holding unit that holds a graphite rod ~~target having a cylindrical shape~~ and rotates said graphite rod ~~target~~ around a central axis;

a light source for irradiating a surface of said graphite rod ~~target~~ with light;

a surface processing unit for flattening the surface of said graphite rod after irradiation ~~target irradiated~~ with light; and

a collecting unit for collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite rod ~~target~~ by irradiation with light, as nanocarbon.

3. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production apparatus comprising:

a target holding unit that holds a graphite ~~target having a flat~~ plate ~~shape~~ and rotates said graphite plate ~~target~~ by 180 degrees in a normal line direction of a surface;

a light source for irradiating a surface of said graphite plate ~~target~~ with light;

a surface processing unit for flattening the surface of said graphite plate ~~target~~ irradiated with light; and

a collecting unit for collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite plate ~~target~~ by irradiation with light, as nanocarbon.

4. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising movement unit that moves a relative position of said graphite target relative to said light source.

5. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said surface processing unit removes a part of the surface of said graphite target at a position different from the irradiation position of said light.

6. (Original) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising dust collecting unit for collecting dust of said graphite target generated in said surface processing unit.

7. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said nanocarbon is carbon nanohorn aggregates.

8. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production method comprising:

irradiating a surface of a graphite target with light, and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite target as nanocarbon, and flattening the surface of said graphite target after said surface of said graphite target is irradiated with light; and

irradiating said surface that is flattened with light again and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite target as nanocarbon;

wherein said graphite target is a graphite rod or a graphite plate.

9. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production method comprising:

irradiating a surface of a graphite rod ~~target having a cylindrical shape~~ with light while rotating said graphite rod ~~target~~ around a central axis, collecting carbon vapor

evaporated from said graphite rod ~~target~~ as nanocarbon, and flattening the surface of said graphite rod after the surface of said graphite rod is ~~target~~ irradiated with light; and

irradiating said surface that is flattened with light again while rotating said graphite rod ~~target~~ around the central axis, and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite rod ~~target~~ as nanocarbon.

10. (Currently amended) A nanocarbon production method comprising:

irradiating a surface of a graphite ~~target having a flat~~ plate ~~shape~~ with light and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite plate ~~target~~ as nanocarbon;

rotating said graphite plate by 180 degrees in a normal line direction of said surface of said graphite plate after said surface of said graphite plate is irradiated with light;

flattening said surface of said graphite plate ~~target~~ irradiated with light after said graphite plate ~~target irradiated with light is rotated by 180 degrees in a normal line direction of said surface~~; and

irradiating said flattened surface with light again and collecting carbon vapor evaporated from said graphite plate ~~target~~ as nanocarbon.

11. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein irradiation with light is carried out while moving an irradiation position of light in said irradiating the surface of the graphite target with light and in said irradiating the graphite target surface with light again.

12. (Currently amended) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein said flattening the surface of said graphite target irradiated with light comprises removing a part of the surface of said graphite target.

13. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein said irradiating the surface of said graphite target with light comprises irradiating with a laser beam.

14. (Previously Presented) The nanocarbon production method according to claim 8, wherein said collecting the nanocarbon comprises collecting carbon nanohorn aggregates.